



David A. Welch
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**"Explaining Foreign Policy Change:
Or, Why is the 'War on Terror' Both
So Late and Such a Huge Overreaction?"**

Monday, April 11, 2005
12:00 p.m.
Room 120
Mershon Center

If states were fully-informed rational actors, they would readily adapt to changes in the international environment. But in fact, foreign policy change is extremely rare, and when it happens, it is often inappropriate. Welch offers a parsimonious general theory of foreign policy change; argues that its performance is superior to any general theory of state behavior; and illustrates the argument by means of an examination of the 'War on Terror.'

David A. Welch received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1990. He is currently Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, where he holds the George Ignatieff Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies. His 1993 book, *Justice and the Genesis of War* (Cambridge University Press) was the winner of the 1994 Edgar S. Furniss Award for an Outstanding Contribution to National Security Studies. He is author of *Painful Choices: A Theory of Foreign Policy Change* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming); *Decisions, Decisions: The Art of Effective Decision-Making* (Prometheus, 2001), and co-author of *On the Brink: Americans and Soviets Reexamine the Cuban Missile Crisis* (1st ed., Hill and Wang, 1989; 2nd ed., Noonday, 1990) and *Cuba on the Brink: Castro, The Missile Crisis, and the Soviet Collapse* (Pantheon, 1993; 2nd ed., Rowman & Littlefield, 2002). He is co-editor of *Intelligence and the Cuban Missile Crisis* (Frank Cass, 1998), and his articles have appeared in *Asian Perspective*, *Ethics and International Affairs*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, *Intelligence and National Security*, *International Security*, *International Journal*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *The Mershon International Studies Review*, *The Review of International Studies*, and *Security Studies*.

Lunch will be served to those who RSVP to Ann Powers, powers.108@osu.edu, before Thursday, April 7, 2005.